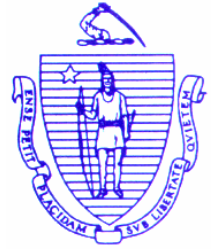




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Marine Fisheries Advisory
April 27, 2004

CHANGES TO RECREATIONAL SCUP MEASURES TO ACHIEVE ASMFC MANDATED 40% REDUCTION IN LANDINGS

At its March meeting, the ASMFC Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Management Board mandated that Massachusetts reduce its recreational scup landings by 40% relative to 2003. Other states are required to reduce landings by variable amounts due to overages in the 2003 fishery. Due to the Board's delayed decision, *Marine Fisheries* is enacting the following changes through emergency action to recreational scup minimum size and possession limits to comply with the 40% cut in landings effective Tuesday, April 27, 2004:

For all recreational fishermen:

- Recreational scup minimum size is increased from 9 to 10-inches.
- Open season remains January 1 through October 6.

For recreational fishermen fishing aboard a private vessel or from shore:

- Possession limit is reduced from 50 to 40 fish during the open season.
- Private vessels with two or more people aboard are prohibited from possessing more than 80 fish.

For recreational fishermen fishing aboard a for-hire vessel:

- Possession limit of 100 fish is retained through June 30.
- Possession limit is reduced from 100 fish to 40 fish from July 1 through October 6.

For further information please visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries or call David Pierce at 617.626.1532.